

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 1, 2023

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20508

Dear Secretary Mayorkas,

We write to you today regarding the deeply distressing news that a large number of Uzbek nationals crossed our southern border with assistance from a human smuggler with connections to ISIS and were released by the Biden Administration into the American homeland.¹ According to CNN, after the Uzbek nationals were released "... the FBI learned about the existence of a human smuggling network helping Uzbek nationals travel to the US – and that this network included at least one individual with connections to ISIS – that national security officials put the pieces together."²

We would have hoped that the Biden Administration and the leadership at Department of Homeland Security would have taken this threat seriously. However, the same CNN article also added that "For some Biden Administration officials, the episode is an example of the system working as it should: intelligence came to light about a particular group of migrants and the US responded with an investigation determining that they did not pose a threat."³

It is not surprising that the Biden Administration would view this incident as a success story. To be clear, allowing the release of any individual into the U.S. only to later find out that they have a clear connection to ISIS is not an example of the "system working," but is a clear indication of the incompetence of the Biden Administration to secure our border from terrorist threats.

Additionally, it is beyond comprehension that there are Biden Administration officials who believe that this investigation has reached a point to conclude publicly to CNN that these individuals do not pose a threat considering that "...the US has not yet located all of the individuals who traveled as part of the network..."⁴ Furthermore, "...more than 15 of the migrants tracked down are still under scrutiny by the FBI as possible criminal threats, according to one US official."⁵

It is imperative that the federal government locate these missing individuals with a connection to ISIS immediately. Locating and questioning these individuals is the only way to ensure that they do not present an imminent threat. Please keep us regularly informed as to the status of this search. We expect to be notified once all of these missing individuals have been located.

¹ <https://www.cnn.com/2023/08/29/politics/migrants-us-southern-border-smuggler-isis-ties/index.html>

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

Lastly, we strongly urge the Department of Homeland Security to immediately update its policies to ensure that asylum seekers with connections to ISIS or other terrorist groups are not permitted to enter the US.

We look forward to your timely response to this matter.

Sincerely,



John Rose
Member of Congress



Tim Burchett
Member of Congress



Chuck Fleischmann
Member of Congress



Pete Stauber
Member of Congress



Michael Cloud
Member of Congress



Bill Posey
Member of Congress



Michael Waltz
Member of Congress



Andy Biggs
Member of Congress

CC:

The Honorable Christopher Wray, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation
The Honorable Avril Haines, Director of National Intelligence